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dency to promote the benevolent affections. No root of bitterness, we are persuaded, will ever be found in the soil which we cultivate. 'As some men gaze with admiration,' says the Vicar of Wakefield, 'at the colour of a tulip, and others are smitten with the wing of a butterfly, so I am, by nature, an admirer of happy human faces.' We will not dispute with the Vicar, and his good taste is unquestionable; but there is reason to believe that happy human faces are as frequently found among the admirers of the tulip and the butterfly, as in pursuits of a more imposing character, and as genuine a relish for all the charities of life. Such, though nothing great or splendid should be accomplished, will be the valued fruit of your pursuits; perhaps also, the condition of our country, may be meliorated and improved by a mild and salutary alterative to mitigate and correct its prevalent asperities.

Proceed, my friends, in your new and cherished career with alacrity and hope, and may the pure enjoyment of liberal and enlightened minds, devoted to useful and honourable pursuit, constantly accompany and reward your labours.

FOR THE NORTH AMERICAN JOURNAL.

THERE is at the Boston Athenæum, a work in four thick octavo volumes, entitled *Biographie moderne, on Dictionnaire Biographique de tous les hommes morts et vivans, qui ont marque a la per du 18 siecle, &c. &c.* second edition, printed at Breslau in 1806. This Biographical Dictionary contains some curious articles; a few American names are selected for translation, from which some opinion may be formed of the correctness and value of this work:—

ADAMS, (Sir John,) one of the founders of the American republick, was a schoolmaster before that revolution. Being made Vice President of Congress in 1789, he seconded Washington in avoiding the rupture which the French party wished to provoke with England. While ambassadour of his government to that power, in 1792, he published his defence of the American Constitutions. Becoming, by general Washington's retiring in March, 1797, President of the United States, he ordered a general fast,

to avoid war, with which the French Directory menaced the Anglo-Americans. In the course of these differences, he refused to recognize Dupont, as French consul at Philadelphia, and suspended citizen Rozieres from exercising the same functions at New York provisorily. The province of Pennsylvania was the first to approve his conduct. The year 1798 passed in hostile demonstrations and unsuccessful negotiations. After the rupture of those undertaken at Paris by M. Gerry, Sir Adams rendered to Congress an account of the disputes between the two countries, and analyzed their nature and objects; he called the young men to the defence of the country, and Washington to the command of the American forces, an employment which he promptly accepted. At the beginning of 1799, the order of John Adams to capture French vessels was published in France. This order was found among the papers of the *Eliza*, an American vessel captured by a French privateer, and carried to Bordeaux. While the Directory were complaining of these hostile acts, Congress, to which Adams had disclosed his proceedings, solemnly approved of them. Nevertheless, at the end of the winter he announced the mission of three agents, furnished with powers to treat and terminate all disputes. The 2d of December he presented to Congress an account of his administration, and of the advantages that had resulted from it; he laid open the measures which he had been obliged to take, for the suppression of certain movements in Pennsylvania, and protested that in these acts he had done nothing to injure the rights of the citizens. He made known the situation of the political relations of the United States with Europe, and especially with France, and announced the removal of the seat of government to the city of Washington. He was then succeeded by Jefferson, put into his place by the friends of democracy. John Adams has collected, with the intention to make it an elementary book, particularly destined to the instruction of youth, a selection of modern travels, of which J. F. Andre published a translation at Paris in 1799.

ADAMS, (Samuel,) a relation of John Adams, President of the United States, and older than him. He is governor of the province of Massachusetts. His talents and merit are vaunted. He died at the close of September,

1803, in the 82d year of his age ; he was at that epoch still governour of Boston.

FRANKLIN, (William.) The life of his father, Benjamin Franklin, who died in 1790, may be found in all biographical works, and we therefore feel ourselves dispensed from giving it ; but we must manifest our astonishment, that none of these historians have ever given about his son William, those details, which would have aided in deciding on his own political conduct. William Franklin was born at Philadelphia in 1736, and was brought up with the greatest care. He had a share in his youth, in the astonishing discovery of lightning rods, which immortalized his father. He was made an officer at an early age in a provincial regiment, and attained to the rank of captain. He afterwards accompanied his father to England, visited every thing that was curious in that country, and was presented to lords Bute and Halifax. He was made governour of New Jersey, and held that important post, when the colonies placed themselves in a state of insurrection, against the mother country. He followed in these delicate circumstances, the line marked out to him by gratitude and duty, as the agent of the English ministry. He remained faithful to it in the midst of the general disaffection, and in spite of the solicitations and example of his father, who till then had shewn him much affection, but who had not the same motives for remaining faithful to England. William was arrested and confined many months in a prison. He could not get back to England till peace had confirmed the independence of America, when he obtained a moderate pension, on which he still lives. Governour Franklin was twice married ; his first wife died near him during his confinement, without his being able to see her ; he had a son by her who is in France ; his other wife was an Irish woman.

HAMILTON, a major in the service of the United States of America. He was arrested early in December, 1793, by order of Congress, who ordered that he should be tried as guilty of high treason, for having accepted from Genet, envoy of France, a commission to raise 5000 men in the United States destined to serve the French against England. In 1792 a decree of the National Assembly conferred upon him the title of French citizen. In 1804 he was killed in a duel by colonel Burr.

JAY, (J.) of Sainte-Foix, administrator of the Gironde, deputy of that department to the legislature, and after-

wards to the National Convention, voted for the death of Louis XVI. opposed to the party of the Gironde, he prolonged after the 31st of May the powers of the committee of publick safety; was elected secretary, presided over the Jacobins in January, 1794, and a month before the 9th of Thermidor, year 2, he gave to the Convention the details of the arrestation and death of Guadet, Salles and Barbaroux. In December, 1794, he concluded and signed with Lord Grenville, at that time Minister of Foreign Affairs, a treaty of Commerce and navigation between England and the United States of America. The French party burnt his effigy at Philadelphia, and exhaled its hatred against this negotiator, who had shewn himself so favourable to the interests of England.

JEFFERSON, (T.) President of the United States of America. Distinguished by his patriotism and his acquirements, he commenced by being secretary of the government, and afterwards Ambassador in France. He published, in 1790, *Reflexions on the Unity of Weights and Measures*, and complained in 1796, in a letter which was made publick, that the English party had obtained the lead in his country. When John Adams was elected President of the United States, Mr. Jefferson was made Vice President by the French party; he was afterwards named President, to fill the place of this same John Adams. The Institute of France made him a foreign associate, and received from him a letter of thanks, dated Nov. 14th, 1800. His country owes to him the introduction of the practice of vaccine inoculation, as a substitute for the common variolous infection. He employed all his means to propagate this beneficial discovery, even among the savage tribes. Jefferson is vaunted for an affability without affectation, a popularity without baseness, intelligence, firmness, and all qualities which constitute a philanthropist. He was re-elected President of the United States in 1805, and at the opening of Congress made a discourse that developed great improvements in the publick administration.

MARSHALL, a general in the service of the United States, was, in 1798, a delegate extraordinary with Messrs. Pinckney and Gerry to the French Directory, for negotiations which were not attended with all the success, that had been expected. The American negotiators having refused to insert a stipulation about a loan exacted by the Directory, and not having experienced a suitable reception, the general de-

parted without ceremony for America, to render an account to his government of the state of things, and left his two colleagues at Paris.

Another MARSHALL, of the preceding family, has distinguished himself in England by his knowledge of agriculture, and has published an interesting work, in which he treats separately of the state of cultivation in the most fertile counties of England.

PINCKNEY, a citizen of the United States of America, possessing a high diplomack representation in his country, was one of the commissioners sent to England in 1794, to arrange the disputes that had arisen with that power. He remained in quality of minister plenipotentiary, and at the end of 1795 made a journey into Spain, to regulate the interests of his country respecting Florida. In May 1796 he retired from his embassy in England; but in 1797, he was sent to the French Republick, and was one of the three commissioners, who commenced with that power a negotiation that was soon broken up, by the demands of money, that were made by the Directory. He went afterwards in quality of Minister from his government to the court of Madrid. In the month of October, 1802, he quitted his residence to go into Italy, as superintendant general of the American Consulates. He continued to exercise these functions in 1805.

DRAYTON, secretary of the government of New York. The general assembly of that city had him arrested the 5th of December, 1793, and ordered him to be proceeded against for high treason, for having recruited in the United States to form a corps, destined to assist the French against the English.

To shew that this misrepresentation, and absurdity is not confined to Americans, the following account of M. Giraud the late French Consul in this town is selected. It is only necessary to remark, that the whole of it is false except the first two sentences.

GIRAUD (M. A. A.) a deputy from the department of the *Charente Inférieure* to the National Convention, voted for the detention of Louis XVI. After the 27th of July, 1794, he presented a plan for the suppression of the law of the *maximum*. He afterwards occupied himself with the subjects of publick education, and the importation and circula-

tion of grains and merchandize. In February, 1795. He was chosen by the Convention to go to St. Domingo with Bourdon de l'Oise and Vardon ; it is well known that these colonial proconsuls did not proceed on their mission. Becoming a member of the council of Five Hundred, he occupied himself with the finances, taxes and customs. In April, 1796, he accepted the place of Commissioner of the Directory to the Colonies, and went to St. Domingo, with Sonthonax, Raymond and Leblanc. He and his colleagues were denounced the 29th of May, 1799, by Vaublanc, as guilty of various offences, arbitrary acts, &c. After this denunciation Vaublanc proposed to recal him, to render an account of his conduct. A few days afterwards, his return was announced to the council ; Tarbe asserted that Giraud had made an important report to the Directory, which had not been communicated to them ; Vaublanc, who had denounced him, attested to his repentance, and that he had been seduced by Sonthonax.

It is quite unnecessary to remark on the falsehoods, the ridiculous absurdities, and the whimsical confounding of different persons in these extracts. President Adams is first qualified with a ridiculous title, and then confounded with an English compiler of Travels. Four different individuals are blended under the name of Pinckney. But the most preposterous account is that of General Hamilton and Mr. Jay. These blunders are too stupid to be wilful, and yet they are almost too extravagant to be fortuitous. The only American name that appears tolerably correct, is that of Washington, which is perhaps beyond the power of injury by malice and folly. The English characters are also disfigured, but not with such gross caricature. Mr. Pitt, is said to have been extravagantly fond of stately ceremony and ostentation in private life, the direct contrary of which, is true ; and Lord Hawksbury (Liverpool) is said not to have ventured on publick speaking, since his famous speech about *the march to Paris*, though he has many and many times spoken 'for some three hours by the dial.' If the book had been published a few years later, his Lordship would have been classed in the first rank of prophets, since he foresaw the thing so long beforehand. Such works (and how many such have been published of late years,) are nuisances of the worst kind.